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The President's Daily Brief

28 May 1969

19

~~*Top Secret*~~

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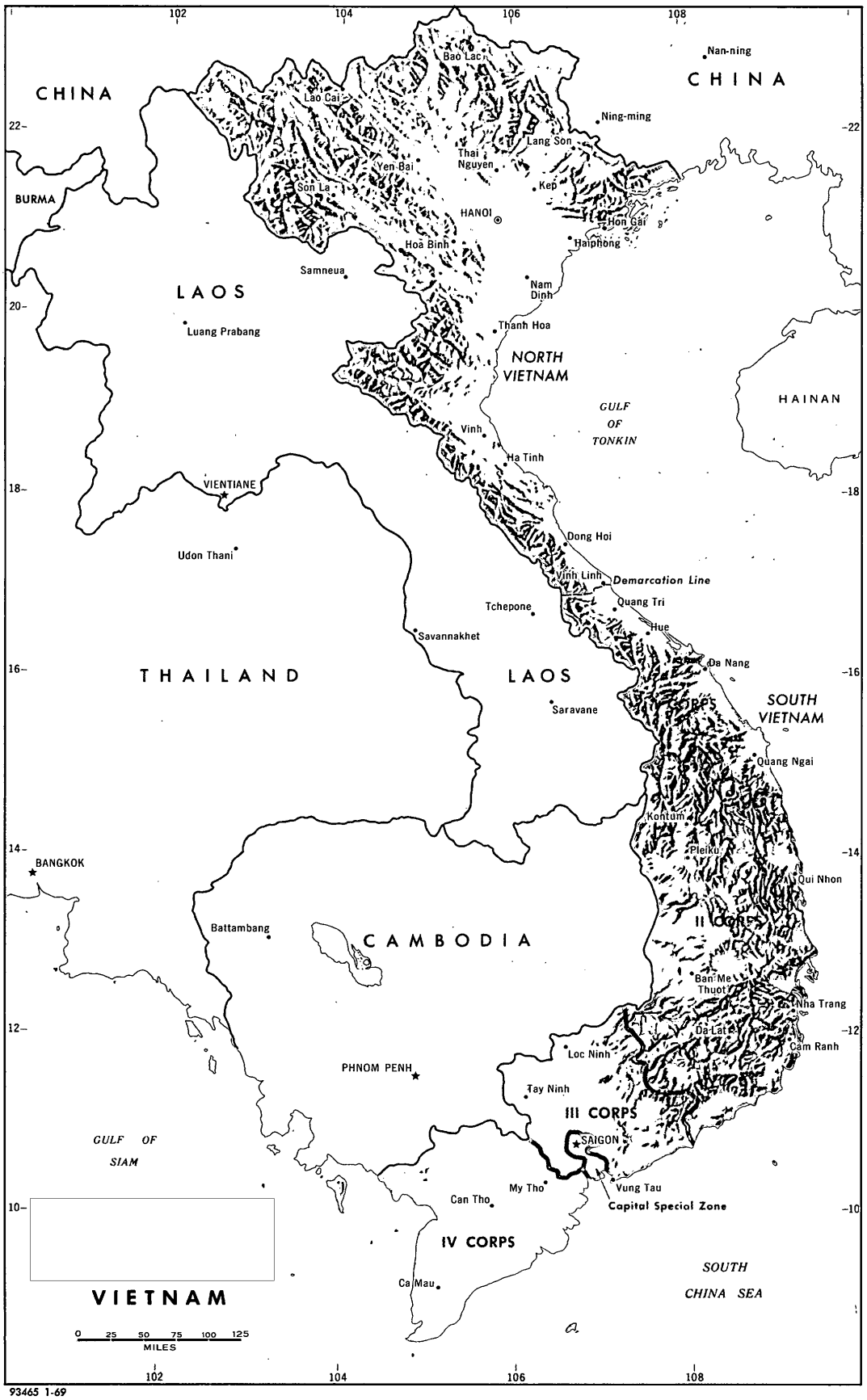

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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

VIETNAM

Stepped-up Communist shellings were reported yesterday in the northernmost provinces for the second day in a row. These forces could play a much greater role in any upcoming summer offensive than in the spring campaign in late February and early March. Elements of the North Vietnamese 325th Division have recently become more active in the DMZ area and two independent regiments are moving south in the Laos panhandle toward the I Corps area.

* * *

President Thieu was "welcomed" on his state visit to South Korea by North Korean gunfire along the DMZ, a standard procedure according to the Defense Ministry in Seoul. It was the eighth small battle along the buffer zone this month.

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EUROPE

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Chancellor Kiesinger, during his visit to Japan last week, told Premier Sato that Bonn would certainly not sign the NPT before the national elections in September. Although other German leaders have said as much, this is the first time that Kiesinger himself has been quoted, from an authoritative source, on the subject.

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MIDDLE EAST

An extended exchange of gunfire took place yesterday along the normally peaceful Syrian-Israeli cease-fire line. Rockets were also fired by the Jordanians at Israeli points along the border, including the city of Jericho last night. The Suez Canal area remained relatively quiet. Although small-arms fire continues, the heavy artillery duels of the last few weeks along this area have ceased--at least temporarily.

* * *

There is nothing significant to report on Soviet Affairs.

II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

COLOMBIA

Tight security measures prevented any untoward incident at Governor Rockefeller's arrival in Bogota. The crowd at the airport was of respectable size and basically friendly but there were few onlookers along the pre-selected route to the presidential palace. Last night he participated in a working dinner with President Lleras Restrepo. Meanwhile, there were student demonstrations in Bogota, Barranquilla, and other parts of Colombia but none got out of hand and none got near Rockefeller. These demonstrations are expected to continue today.

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SUDAN

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PAKISTAN-USSR

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Soviet aid will certainly be one of the subjects discussed when Premier Kosygin pays a three day visit to Rawalpindi, beginning tomorrow, on his way home from Afghanistan. This visit was announced in today's Pakistan Times, which stated that Kosygin was coming because he could not accept an earlier invitation after his visit to New Delhi.

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